

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

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R 250141Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9684

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME AND FITZSIMMONDS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR ETRD JA

SUBJ: U.S. CITRUS: FUNGICIDES

REF: (A) TOKYO 5015; (B) STATE 090722; (C) FASTO 199; GV

(D) TOKYO 4929

1. SUMMARY. AIDE MEMOIRE DELIVERED BY ECON/COM MIN AND ASST AGATT TO MR. K. SAITO, DIRECTOR, SECOND NORTH AMERICA DIVISION, FONOFF APRIL 24. SAITO PROMISED TO GIVE RESPONSE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AFTER CONSULTING WITH MHW.

2. INCORPORATING SUGGESTIONS GIVEN REFS B AND C, FINAL AIDE MEMOIRE DELIVERED FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO APPROVE THE USE OF THE FUNGICIDES ORTHO-PHENYLFENOL (OPP) AND THIABENDAZOLE (TBZ) ON IMPORTED FRESH FRUIT FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(1) BOTH OPP AND TBZ ARE AT STEP NUMBER 9 IN CODEX ALIMENTARIUS, AN INTERNATIONAL BODY THAT HAS SPECIAL COMPETENCE IN THIS AREA. STEP NUMBER 9, OF COURSE, MEANS THAT THIS INTERNATIONAL BODY HAS ALREADY RECOMMENDED ACCEPTANCE BY ALL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING JAPAN.

(2) MOST MAJOR CITRUS PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, ALL SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, CANADA AND OTHERS ALREADY ALLOW THE USE OF THESE

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FUNGICIDES ON FRESH FRUIT. HENCE, THE PREPONDERANCE OF

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EVIDENCE ALREADY DEMONSTRATES THAT WHEN USED WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED TOLERANCE LEVELS OF 10 PPM. OPP AND TBZ ARE NOT HARMFUL TO HUMANS. (3) APPROVED USE OF THESE FUNGICIDES COULD REDUCE LOSS DUE TO SPOILAGE AND HENCE REDUCE THE COST OF IMPORTED FRUITS TO JAPANESE CONSUMERS. THERE COULD ALSO BE POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES FOR DOMESTIC FRUIT. END QUOTE.

3. RE SUNKIST: SK 17 AND SK 18 NOW IN MARKET. SK 19 CLEARED BY MHW FOR MARKET DISTRIBUTION. SK 20, NOW IN HONG KONG, EXPECTED ARRIVE HERE APRIL 29. MKT PRICE FOR LEMONS AT ALL-TIME HIGH NOW.

4. RE FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT: DAI'EI SUPERMARKET CHAIN REPORTEDLY RUNNING SALES OF FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT, ADVERTISING SAFETY OF THE FRUIT AND SELLING FIVE FRUIT FOR 400 YEN.

5. MHW SOURCES INDICATE FOLLOWING BRANDS FOUND WITH TBZ OR OPP SINCE REF D:

(A) GRAPEFRUIT: QUEEN BEE, GOLDEN MA, SUN GIANT, GOLDEN RIVER;

(B) ORANGES: SUN GIANT, SUPER FINE, PREMIUM, HILL PACK;

(C) LEMONS: GOLDEN QUALITY, STAR BRIGHT, FALL BROOK, SAN MARCOS, ELITE, DISPLAY, HAPPY DAY, PACIFIC GOLD, ATTITUDE, SUN DANCER, SESPE, BEAR, SUPER FINE.

THESE NAMES OBTAINED VIA TELEPHONE SO SPELLING MAY BE INACCURATE.

6. MHW SAYS 40 TO 50 PERCENT OF LOTS OF LEMONS TESTED TO DATE TEST POSITIVE, USUALLY AT ABOUT 8 PPM. BRANDS WHICH TEST POSITIVE MOST OFTEN ARE DISPLAY, STAR BRIGHT AND FALL BROOK. HOPE TO BE ABLE GET RUNNING TALLY OF NUMBER CARTONS FRUIT CONDEMNED TO DATE BEFORE WEEKEND.

7. FYI ADVISED SUNKIST MET ON THEIR OWN WITH DG ISHIMARU MHW APRIL 24 P.M. AFTER OBTAINING APPOINTMENT THROUGH MIN OF FINANCE OHIRA.
MEETING REPORTEDLY WENT WELL.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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